

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A mobile phone configured and arranged with:
a display for displaying text/graphics;
an arrangement of keys for inputting alphanumeric characters to the phone, selecting desired operational functionalities of the phone and navigating sub-operational functionalities within a selected operational functionality ; and
circuitry configured and arranged for hinting one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities available in said selected operational functionality such that said hinted one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities is communicated via a suitable alerting mechanism, said hinting performed by a non-literal character string match logic process.
2. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said suitable alerting mechanism is a first text menu list of suggested next possible sub-functionalities available for selection, said first text menu list being shown on said display in response to a chosen desired operational functionality.
3. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said suitable alerting mechanism comprises one or more selection hinting keys configured and arranged for illumination each of which is associated with a next possible sub-operational functionality.
4. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 2 wherein a text menu list containing at least one next possible sub-operational functionality is displayed in response to the operation of a corresponding one of said one or more selection hinting keys.
5. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said circuitry is further configured and arranged for deactivating said suitable alerting mechanism.
6. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said suitable alerting mechanism further comprises one or more user action prompting instructions.

7. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 6 wherein said user action prompting instruction is a text message representation.
8. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 6 wherein said user action prompting instruction is a graphic message representation.
9. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 3 wherein said illuminated selection hinting key is color illuminated.
10. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 3 wherein said illuminated selection hinting key is arranged to flash on and off.
11. The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said suitable alerting mechanism comprises one or more selection hinting keys graphically represented on the mobile phone display each of which graphically represented selection hinting keys is configured and associated with a next possible sub-operational functionality corresponding to the given operational context and sequence progression step in the selected desired operational functionality.
12. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1 wherein said suitable alerting mechanism comprises one or more distinctive tones each of which tones corresponds to a given selection hinting key associated with a next possible sub-operational functionality available for user selection.
13. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 1, wherein said suitable alerting mechanism comprises an icon of a selection hinting key corresponding to a short-cut key for carrying out the operational sequence progression steps corresponding to the selected desired operational functionality.
14. (currently amended) A mobile phone configured and arranged with a display for showing text/graphics, an arrangement of keys for inputting alphanumeric characters to the phone and, selecting and accessing desired operational functionalities and features of the phone,

at least one menu driven operational function, and, circuitry configured and arranged for hinting one or more possible next feature selections available in the menu driven operational function, said hinting performed by a non-literal character string match logic process.

15. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 14 wherein said hinting one or more possible next features circuitry is arranged for highlighting said one or more hinted next feature selections shown in a menu list of features in the menu driven operational function.

16. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 14 wherein said hinting one or more possible next features circuitry is arranged for voice announcement of said one or more hinted next feature selections available from a list of features in the menu driven operational function.

17. (previously presented) The mobile phone as define in claim 16 wherein said hinting one or more possible next features circuitry is arranged with voice recognition for responding to a spoken feature selection.

18. (currently amended) A mobile phone configured and arranged with a display screen, a memory for storing at least one instruction set for carrying out the functions of the mobile phone, an arrangement of keys for selecting a desired function and for operating the mobile phone, circuitry configured and arranged for providing a hinting indication of next possible functionalities available for selection corresponding to the operational context and sequence progression steps of the given selected desired function, said hinting indication produced by a non-literal character string match logic process.

19. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 18 wherein said circuitry for providing a hinting indication comprises a visual indication of one or more hinting keys each of which hinting keys is associated with a next possible functionality.

20. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 19 further comprises a physical keypad.

21. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 18 further comprising a virtual keypad.

22. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 19 further arranged for showing a text message associated with each of said one or more hinting keys on the display screen to explain the functionality of the key.

23. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 19 wherein said visual indication is an illuminated hinting key.

24. The mobile phone as defined in claim 23 wherein said illuminated hinting key is a colored hinting key.

25. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 24 wherein said colored hinting key is arranged to change color to provide said visual indication.

26. (previously presented) The mobile phone as defined in claim 18 wherein circuitry for providing a hinting indication further comprises audio tones corresponding to one or more hinting keys each of which hinting keys is associated with a next possible functionality.

27. (currently amended) A mobile phone configured and arranged with a display screen, electronic circuitry for carrying out the operational functions of the phone, a memory coupled to the electronic circuitry for storing at least one instruction set for controlling the operation of the phone, and an arrangement of keys for selecting a desired operational function, and circuitry configured and arranged for hinting at next possible operational functionalities available for selection corresponding to the operational context and progression stage in the given selected desired function, said hinting performed by a non-literal character string match logic process.

28. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
providing hinting capabilities in a mobile telephone by

identifying a desired operational function;
selecting the identified desired operational function;
determining additional sub-functionalities available for the selected operational function;
associating a key of the mobile phone with each of the available sub-functionalities as a hinting key; and
identifying one or more of the associated hinting keys to hint at one or more of the next possible sub-functionalities available for selection corresponding to the given operational context and sequence progression step in the selected operational function, said hinting performed by a non-literal character string match logic process.

29. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28 further comprising identifying all additional next possible functionalities available for selection.

30. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28 further comprising illuminating the hinting key for hinting of its availability for selection as a next possible operational functionality.

31. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 30 wherein illuminating the hinting key further comprises illuminating the hinting key in a color.

32. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 31 wherein illuminating the hinting key further comprises flashing the hinting key on and off.

33. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28 wherein identifying one or more associated hinting keys further comprises showing an icon representing the associated hinting key on the display of the mobile phone for hinting of its availability for selection as a next possible operational functionality.

34. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 33 wherein the associated hinting key is a short-cut key.

35. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28 further comprising providing one or more distinctive audio tones each of which tones corresponds to an identified associated hinting key.

36. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28 further comprising operating one or more of the associated hinting keys to select the sub-functionality corresponding to the operated associated hinting key.

37. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 36 further comprising operating one or more of the associated hinting keys through voice recognition operation by speaking the name of the hinting key.

38. (previously presented) A computer program stored in a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of claim 28.

39. (new) An apparatus, comprising:
means for displaying text/graphics;
means for inputting alphanumeric characters to the apparatus, selecting desired operational functionalities of the apparatus and navigating sub-operational functionalities within a selected operational functionality ; and
means for hinting one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities available in said selected operational functionality such that said hinted one or more next possible sub-operational functionalities is communicated via a suitable alerting mechanism, said hinting performed by a non-literal character string match logic process.